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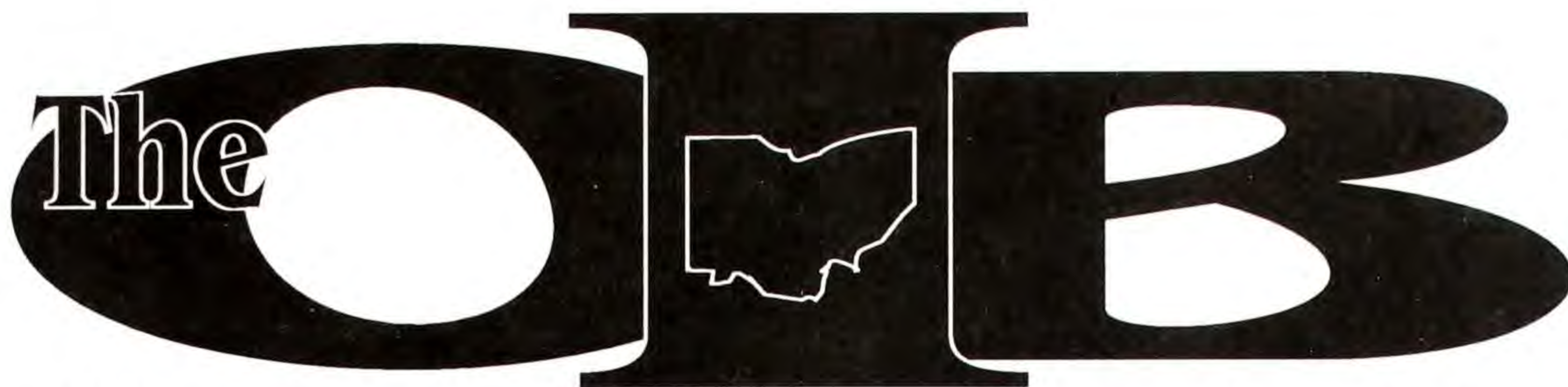
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The Ohio Independent Baptist

The Newsletter of the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

Vol.66 No.1

January 1993

Our Vision Has Not Changed!

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We are the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches. We are dedicated to the building of New Testament churches committed to fulfilling the Great Commission locally and throughout the world. No one of our churches can accomplish this alone. We draw together to strengthen and sharpen one another through mutual encouragement and edification. As a fellowship we will impact our state and the world for Christ.

In 1989, at the annual conference of the OARBC, the messengers of the Association accepted the recommendation of the Council of Twelve and the state representative to adopt the above as the official statement of vision for the ministry of our OARBC.

As we begin a new year, it is time once more to call to mind what our ministry is all about. Surely our vision for ministry has not changed. With the dramatic changes taking place in our state and country, with the movement toward a more liberal and permissive society, we must safeguard

that unique purpose for which we exist. The Great Commission is still our driving directive from the Head of the Church. More than ever, we are committed to it.

It is essential that we continue to "draw together" to strengthen, sharpen, encourage and edify one another. The critical challenge of church planting, to permeate Ohio with the doctrine of Jesus Christ, presses upon us. The challenge for each church to reach for its greatest potential remains.

The challenge of the hospitalization situation looms

above us. As we draw together, we can DEFEAT it, free ourselves from the debt, and help many of our pastors. But just a few cannot do it. We must DRAW TOGETHER to help each other through this critical time.

We must not be diverted from our primary purpose.



Hats off to Chris Hales, from Abbe Road Baptist, Elyria, for taking first in individual competition in the Hebron Quiz League!

Pray for Pastor Dean Henry, who is recovering from a heart attack. Henry, who for many years pastored at Brown Street Baptist in Akron, was interim pastor at Mt. Pleasant Baptist, Homeworth.

Having an Impact on Ohio



Larry Fetzer
State Representative

Genesis 8:5: "On the first day of the month were the mountaintops seen."

The long year of the flood was over; a new day had dawned. The mountaintops were visible. What an exhilarating discovery; what a marvelous vision after the long months of storm-tossed waters. It was time for work. It was time to rebuild. So, too, in our Association in this new year.

Your Council of Twelve and the OARBC have gone through a tumultuous time. The fall of our hospitalization has been a stressful experience that put much pressure on many of our people. Some are still seeking new coverage. A heavy burden of debt remains. Yet the sun still shines above the peaks, and a new day has dawned for the OARBC. I see some mountaintop experiences before us:

1. An opportunity to see afresh the wonder of our God as He moves us through this new challenge. It is true—He owns it all, and we are His people, committed to His service. I believe that in this new year we will see Him bring about a mighty victory.

2. A display of the tremendous potential and power of God's people working together to accomplish a goal.

3. The new church ministry moving forward. Significant things are happening:

- A new church just planted in Portsmouth
- A new church projected for Marysville
- Potential of a new church in Piqua
- A new pastor to serve with church planters Earl and Marilyn Shaffer in Sidney

Tornado Surprises Arcanum Congregation

The lights went out during the Sunday evening, November 22, service at Immanuel Baptist, Arcanum. Though several people had noticed dark clouds in the sky, most were taken by surprise. "I think we need to go to the basement," said one member, who, as part of the auxiliary police department, had been monitoring the situation by radio. It was while the congregation was in the basement, singing and quoting Scripture passages about God's protection, that a tornado cut a four-mile path through the small town of Arcanum, leaving incredible destruction in its wake.

Though Immanuel Baptist was out of the tornado's reach, five families from the church were directly affected, two having major damage to their homes. One woman, not wanting to be alone during the storm, went across the street to a friend's basement; she returned to destruction.

Pastor Greg Greve recalls the two days after the tornado when his family had no electricity at their home. "People were so kind," he said. "Some helped with meals and laundry, and someone brought in a

generator for our refrigerator and freezer."

During the days immediately following the tornado, members handed out church-addressed postcards on which people could write specific prayer requests. Besides helping some from their deacon fund, the congregation was part of a massive clean-up on December 14.

The people of Immanuel want to thank those who called and who were praying for them. "Everyone had a friend, relative or neighbor with needs, and everyone got involved helping," said Pastor Greve. "That's the small town spirit."

- Property obtained for the new church in Washington Courthouse
- Formation of a state-wide church planting task force to implement and coordinate church planting in Ohio
- Good progress in Wapakoneta, including possible purchase of a building
- 4. Many of our churches thriving under the hand of God's blessing.

So we thank God for a glorious new year with the expectation of seeing Him accomplish mighty things through the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

Larry Fetzer

How Can I Help You?

I have open dates throughout '93

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Mark your calendars now for the
1993 OARBC Conference
October 18-20
Northfield Baptist Church,
Northfield, Ohio
Speaker: Dr. Warren Wiersbe

Cedarville College News

Dr. Joseph Stowell III returned to Cedarville to present the Winter Enrichment Conference messages January 4-8. Dr. Stowell, a graduate of Cedarville College and Dallas Theological Seminary, is president of Moody Bible Institute.

Dr. Barbara Loach, associate professor of Spanish, recently presented a research paper to the third annual Congress on Hispanic Culture at the University of Chile in Santiago. Dr. Loach also has written a chapter in an anthology of Chilean women authors which will be published next year in Chile. Dr. Loach studied in Spain, Portugal, and Quebec. She has traveled in Chile and Puerto Rico and led student mission trips to Argentina and Mexico.

During Hunger Awareness Week, November 16-20, Cedarville students took part in a number of projects. Campus organizations sponsored activities which heightened the students' awareness of hunger both locally and worldwide and resulted in a generous contribution to the Dayton Gospel Mission Soup Kitchen.

C.O.M.E. Approves Evangelist

The Committee On Missionary Evangelism has another approved evangelist. Walter Smith has 17 years of pastoral experience, 15 years in Christian school administration and 4 years of radio ministry. He makes his home with his wife, Paula, and three children in Silver Springs, Florida. Another daughter is in college. God has already blessed him with many opportunities of fruitful evangelism. Walter Smith may be contacted at PO Box 1700, Silver Springs, Florida, 32688, phone 904-236-4180.

Try This in Your Church

Ideas That Work!

Christmas sweatshirts are helping to get the word out about Lemoyne Baptist Church, Lemoyne. The sweatshirts, which are of excellent quality and sell for the low price of \$15, says Pastor Ron Shinkle, show a Christmas scene on the front along with the words, "Celebrate the Presence of Jesus," and the name of the church. T-shirts ordered this summer were also of good quality and were priced reasonably. For information, contact the Shinkles at 419-837-5408.

Emmanuel Baptist of Dayton has initiated a "Helper Board" to encourage members to meet each others' needs. The bulletin board lists categories such as "job opportunities" and "items for sale." Key to the board's success is keeping it current—leaving the requests up for only a specified length of time. Already the board has helped one person find a used table and chairs, and another find someone to do a small plumbing job. Emmanuel's staff says there has been good response to the board.

Bailey Road Baptist, North Jackson, has instituted a scholarship program for their senior highers. By memorizing Bible verses, reading through the New Testament, having a regular quiet time, reading Christian books and being involved in an area of Christian service, the teens can earn one-half of a summer camp fee or \$75 for use toward a Christian college or summer missions trip. The program involves no meetings—the teens are on their own, with quarterly tests on the memorization and a final, which includes a practical application section, in July. The project is supported by gifts from the congregation.

Les Webster is senior pastor and David Black assistant pastor at Bailey Road.

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Regular Baptist Press

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Are you interested in a ministry opportunity at one of the most beautiful spots in Ohio? Consider being on staff at Camp Patmos on Kelleys Island. Applications for employment are available by contacting Pastor David Chapman, Fostoria Baptist Church, PO Box 1005, Fostoria, OH 44830. Positions available: certified lifeguard, boat driver, dining hall staff, and staff counselor.

"The greatest thing is to be found at one's post as a child of God, living each day as though it were our last, but planning as though our world might last a hundred years." --C.S. Lewis

Across the State



Associate Pastor
Barry Kilmer

Springfield

On November 6, Barry Kilmer, associate pastor at **Southgate Baptist Church**, was examined for ordination to the gospel ministry. The ordination service was held Sunday evening, November 8.

Guest speakers included Pastor Eric Mounts, Grand Ledge, Michigan; Dr. David Drullinger, Cedarville College; and Pastor Jim Vogel, senior pastor at Southgate.

Barry is a graduate of Baptist Bible College of Pennsylvania, and has served on the pastoral staff at Southgate for almost seven years. In 1992 his ministry shifted from youth to a ministry with singles and adult education.

Northfield

Northfield Baptist was host to a "Successful Parenting Seminar" with Dr. Howard Bixby on November 21. Participants came from area churches for the six-hour seminar which

focused on ways parents can transmit values to their children. Said Assistant Pastor Mark Ashley, "The heartbeat of Dr. Bixby's challenge to parents was to raise their children to obey the Lord and do what He wants them to."

Medina

Dr. Charles Clevenger was guest musician at the piano dedication concert at **First Baptist** on November 15. The Kawai piano was given in memory of Quinten

Seeley. Dr. Clevenger, keyboard professor at Cedarville College, played a variety of pieces, from the classics to hymns and spiritual songs. He also described the characteristics of the piano and explained the pieces he played.

Ashland

Roger Foreman was guest musician for **Calvary Baptist's** annual Thanks Day on November 22. Foreman, a Cedarville College graduate who teaches in Maine, is an accomplished pianist and vocalist. The carry-in noon meal was well attended, according to Pastor Stephen Worth.

Galion

Several years ago Deacon Charlie Samples decided **First Baptist's** building fund needed a shot in the arm. His solution: an old nail keg, strategically placed by the front door, to encourage members to drop in their change. By November 1992, Charlie's Barrel had added \$3,600 to the building fund.

Soon to be completed at First Baptist is an \$85,000 front entrance renovation, which includes the installation of an elevator. Pastor Richard McIntosh reports that several handicapped members are eager for the improvements to be finished, since all the present entrances to the building involve steps.

Amherst

The third Tri-Church Bible Conference was held at **Abbe Road Baptist, Amherst; First Baptist, Elyria; and Faith Baptist, Amherst** November 1-4. This year's speaker was Pastor James Jeffery, senior pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Each church held its own Sunday school and morning worship services, with Pastor Jeffery speaking at Faith at 10 a.m. and Abbe Road at 10:50 a.m.. Sunday evening through Wednesday services were held jointly. Nursery care and children's programs were provided for each service.

Coshocton

Pastor Robert Riedy writes, "Approximately five years ago [**Calvary Baptist Church**] decided to have a new beginning with God. We had gone through some difficult times during the 1980s, but with God's help we've made it."

This month marks the beginning of a four-month capital funds campaign in which the congregation hopes to raise funds for the relocation of the church facility. A steering committee of ten couples and consultant Larry Armentrout has been formed to give direction to the project. A parsonage was built on the 14 acre site in 1990, and paid for in 1991. "We stepped out on faith back then, began revitalization and took step one toward relocation, constructing a beautiful parsonage and burning the mortgage in one year. We are ready to take another step. Admittedly this is a much bigger step...however, we now have a history of success in stepping out with God in this way," says Pastor Riedy.

Paulding

Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Kenneth Van Loon was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and assigned as chaplain for the Ohio Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. His new assignment comes as a result of his relocation to Ohio, where he serves under Baptist Mid-Missions as the missionary pastor of **Emmanuel Baptist Church**. Van Loon's previous assignment was Alaska, and personnel there state that he is missed as a chaplain as well as a friend.

Perrysville

Vermillion Baptist held special meetings with Dr. William Maher November 1-4. Maher, whom doctors said would never walk or talk, is the founder of God's Handi-Work, an evangelistic ministry to disabled people in the United States and abroad. Pastor Albert Yost reports many public decisions during the meetings.



**OIB news deadline
for special February issue:
January 1**

New Direction Set For Church Planting

We were really making progress! The new church developer project was up to 68% of its first fund-raising goal. There were 15 churches committed to supporting the project on a monthly basis. But God had other plans! Since the attention of the OARBC is now focused on the RBF insurance situation, we have ceased active fund-raising for a full-time new church developer position.

However, no one wants the vision for church planting in Ohio to die. So, at our annual conference, we voted to establish a state church planting committee. If you know of an individual or two who could make a significant contribution to this church planting effort, send the name(s) to Pastor Joel Harriman, 8651 County Rd. 39, Belle Center, OH 43310. The committee will serve as a **catalyst** with individuals, churches, and area church fellowships to stimulate church planting in the state. It will also serve as a **facilitator** for individuals and groups who are burdened for church planting in Ohio.

Money given toward the new church

developer position is being kept in a church planting fund. Any gifts now given to church planting will be added to what we already have and made available to the committee to promote and develop church planting in the state.

There is still an ongoing vision for church planting. Things are beginning to happen in Marysville and other areas. Help us keep the vision for church planting alive by your continued interest, prayers and support.

-- Joel Harriman
New Richland Baptist Church
Belle Center

Focus On The Council



Pastor Max McCullough

Max McCullough, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Canton, was elected to the Ohio Council of Twelve at the October 1992 meeting of the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches. McCullough previously served on the Council from 1985-1991. He has also served the state as youth chairman.

Pastor McCullough holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cedarville College and a Master of Divinity from Grace Theological Seminary. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry from Luther Rice Seminary.

McCullough and his wife, Carol, have three children. His hobbies are reading, sports, and yard work.

Council of Twelve Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

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Lynn Rogers, Northfield Baptist,
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Canton
Ben Reed, Faith Baptist, Niles
Ken Spink, Berea Baptist, Berea

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of Churches. And
don't let us print old information about your church staff, either.

You've asked for a new directory...now please help us do it right. Take just a minute this week to send us a note (postcard will do) listing your staff and their addresses. Send to

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Dear Forever Friends,

At the close of the fall OWMU meeting in Columbus, Sue Renstrom said, "My mother used to say her heart was so full, the juice was running out her eyes." I felt the same way. Our time together had been very precious, and only eternity will reveal all of the results. We had been blessed, but also challenged. Our hearts were full of praise and yet greatly burdened for our Christian brothers and sisters facing great persecution.

My heart is full again tonight as I begin this letter; the juice is beginning to run out my eyes and I find myself wondering if I can convey to you the urgency and burden I feel so strongly. Before I even picked up the pen I asked the Lord to give me His thoughts and words...to use this communication to "tug at your heart strings."

This afternoon I read Ruth Wood's article in the ABWE *Message*. She writes:

"Several years ago teams came to the Gambia to help build our six-room clinic and missionary housing. God has filled those homes with long-term missionaries. Many have arrived within the past two years; two more families are scheduled to arrive this year. After a slow start to our work in the Gambia, God has provided the personnel to establish an effective work here. We see a growing interest in God's Word."

As I read, my mind drifted back to April 17, 1990, when Ruth Wood spoke to us at the spring OWMU meeting. Remember? She had been on the phone throughout the night talking to Pat Doane and Debbie Newsome, who were trying to persuade Gambian officials to allow our missionaries to remain in the country. Remember her tears, and ours as well? Remember that special, special prayer time? Remember the comfort and hope God gave as Lori Jones sang, "Til the Storm Passes By"? God saw those tears, heard those prayers, and, as Ruth's article reveals, He continues to answer in a great and mighty way.

I again watched Pastor Biyoyouwei's video, and I was overwhelmed with the horrifying truth that he and the other Liberian believers are once again experiencing those dangers, fears, and severe trials that caused us to cry and moan when we first heard of them at the April '92 meeting.

As it was at the state meeting, my heart is full of praise for the good news from the Gambia but burdened for those in Liberia. Maybe by the time you read

this, peace will return to Liberia. I pray that will be so. I also pray every day that the Lord will keep the great need and these believers in your hearts and minds. We must not forget them. We must not lose the urgency of their plight. We must remain faithful.

In closing, may I encourage you to do four things:

1. Call your area representative and watch that video even if you've seen it before. Share it with your church family.
2. Read Acts 12:1-17. Be reminded that we serve that same wonderful God today! Paraphrase Acts 12:5 this way: "The Liberians therefore were kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the Ohio churches unto God for them."
3. Fill those quarter savers! We do not want to be like the astonished believers in Acts 12:16. Let's pray in faith, believing and expecting. Then let's follow the disciples' example in Acts 11:29-30a: "Then the disciples (the women of Ohio), every man (woman) according to his (her) ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea (Liberia): Which also they did."
4. Stop right now and PRAY!

In His Love and for His Glory,
Sue Miller



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Barberton, OH 44203
216-825-6178

Bethany Area Fellowship
Mrs. Shirley Friend
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439 Genoa, NW
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216-477-3840

Hebron Area Fellowship
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Gallipolis, OH 45631
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North Bethel Area Fellowship
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West Unity, OH 43570
419-924-2907

Northeast Ohio Area Fellowship
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13209 Southview Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44120
216-491-8557

South Bethel Area Fellowship
Mrs. Pat Warren
Box 601
Cedarville, OH 45314
513-766-5913

West Moriah Area Fellowship
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Keeping Up With Our Camps

Skyview Ranch

The Ranch ministry was a busy one during the fall, serving over 926 young people and adults, including 173 of our senior citizens on special days of their own. Each group has enjoyed the new facilities being offered at the Ranch.

The Ranch salutes the work groups who have come and labored on the deck, Wildwood Chapel, and other projects. The work still goes on. Spring projects being planned include the construction of a new Ranch store in the current picnic pavilion. The Ranch depends on your donated labor and materials.

The coming winter retreats will feature a fully-planned schedule of activities for ranchers attending—horseback riding, inner tubing, snow activities, challenges from God's Word, plus the traditional great Ranch food. Winter retreats are scheduled for:

Singles	January 8-9
Teens	February 5-6 (Cedarville Swordbearers)
	February 26-27
Juniors	February 12-13
	March 5-6

Cost for the retreats is \$24 per person. Sponsors may attend for \$12. Horseback riding is \$4 per person. Registrations will be accepted by mail only with a \$10 deposit for each person attending. These retreats fill up early, so register by mail soon!

Special projects this year will include a mandatory upgrading of our sewage

system at a cost of \$7,500. The Ranch's growth in recent years and an aging system have forced us to upgrade. Along with this project, we are looking to the future and planning additional projects to increase the Ranch's ability to minister year 'round. To help with the sewage project and future growth, the Ranch is seeking additional support from churches and friends.

Our ministry is aided by your prayers. This winter you can pray for the following: safety for our weekend retreats and travels; spiritual decisions each weekend; lining up of volunteer groups for spring projects; financial provision for the new sewage treatment system; the recruiting of staff for the summer camp program. Pray also for the Ranch staff family: Roloffs, Wolffs, Oswalds, Clines, Hayes, Janie Seivers, and Jon Selander.

1993 Men's Retreat
May 13-15 Dan Gelatt, speaker

1993 Summer Camp Schedule

Juniors	June 21-26
Jr Hi	June 28-July 3
Family Camp	July 5-10
Sr Hi	July 12-17
Juniors	July 19-24
Jr Hi	July 26-31
Juniors	August 2-7
Family Camp	August 9-14 (only RV or tent camping)
Family Camp	August 16-21

will be here for that retreat also. Pastor Elvis Pollard is the speaker for the Junior High retreat January 29-30.

Summer isn't so far away, so make your summer camp plans now.

June 14-19	Jr Hi
June 21-26	Juniors
June 28-July 3	Juniors
July 5-10	Sr Hi
July 12-17	Jr Hi
July 19-24	Juniors
July 26-31	Juniors
August 2-7	Family Camp

Scioto Hills

To God be the glory for the beginning of a new year and for the opportunities God will give us to bring glory to Him.

As we reflect, we praise Him for over 4,000 opportunities that visited Scioto Hills last year, and for the lives that were changed. We're also so thankful for the volunteers who helped construct a sawmill, our fourth A-frame, and another log cabin for campers.

With the new year here, we are building on the past and looking to the future. Dr. Wendell Kempton will be with us for our men's retreats April 30-May 1 and May 7-8, as well as for the Spring Senior Saints Retreat May 5-6. Dr. Don Callan is the speaker for the Senior High retreat February 5-6; the Cedarville College Abundant Life Singers



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Regular Baptist Insurance Fund Report

The Regular Baptist Fellowship Health Care Insurance program which operated under the auspices of the OARBC is now officially closed. The process of sorting through claims has begun.

A fund raising committee, chaired by Pastor Merlyn Jones, of Mount Vernon, is hard at work encouraging our pastors and people to help meet this heavy debt, currently figured to be about \$600,000. The Lord is working; many churches have already sent in special offerings. Some ways you can help:

1. By adding the fund to your church budget for a monthly gift.
2. By doing as many churches and some individuals have done—deciding to pay off their own claims themselves, thus relieving the association of that burden.
3. By considering what you and/or your church can do to help in the special "Victory Offering" planned for February 14. All gifts should be made out

to OARBC/RBF and sent to OARBC, PO Box 28221, Columbus, OH 43228.

The Council of Twelve has appointed a claims committee which will be available to help those with outstanding claims. They will be responsible for:

1. Negotiating payments
2. Administering the payment of claims
3. Coordinating the payments of claims made by churches or individuals with those made by the association

Your contact person for this committee will be: Larry Fetzer
884 Knebworth Ct.
Westerville, OH 43081
614-523-3666

Please continue to pray with us as we work our way through these many details.

✂ Please clip and save

1993 OIB Deadlines

Special February issue	January 1
March/April issue	February 16
May/June issue	April 9
July/August issue	June 14
September issue	August 2
October issue	September 2
November/December issue	October 15
January '94 issue	November 30



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GET READY!

Cedarville College can prepare you to serve the Lord with the talents He has given you.

Our graduates are ready to minister as teachers, business leaders, pastors, nurses, scientists, and in a host of other professions.

How can you get ready? Our quality academic programs...Bible courses...opportunities to practice ministry...Christian friends...hands-on, high-tech instruction...these vital aspects of a Christian college experience will help you grow.

Visit our campus, meet the students, talk to the professors. You'll see that Cedarville is a great place to get ready for the rest of your life!

- 75 programs of study
- Accredited Baptist college of arts, sciences, and professional programs
- Worldwide Christian ministries
- Over 2,100 students from all over the world
- Financial aid: call 1-800-444-2433
Ask about the Ohio Choice Grant!

CEDARVILLE COLLEGE
Ready for you.

ADMISSIONS
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